

From: Bill [mailto:f4pilot@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 5:28 PM
To: SR 520 Bridge SDEIS
Subject: Tolls on SR520 Bridge

I-217-001

What is the policy on tolls on the SR 520 bridge? Specifically,

1. Will car pools be exempt from paying tolls?

To toll car pools runs directly contrary to the State's stated goals of reducing single occupancy vehicles and reduce congestion. In support of the State's goals, car pools should be exempt from paying tolls.

2. Will government vehicles have to pay tolls? If not, why not? Are government vehicles also using these assets, just as every citizen? What is the controlling legal authority, if one exists, for exempting government vehicles from paying tolls.

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In Washington State, the tolling authority is the Washington State Transportation Commission, who sets the toll rates, fees, and exemptions. The SR 520 Bridge Toll Proposal was released in November 2010, and the Transportation Commission solicited comments on the proposal through January 4, 2011. The Washington State Transportation Commission will be considering exemptions in conjunction with the toll rate setting process. WSDOT has recommended that registered vanpools and transit be exempted from paying tolls on the SR 520 bridge, along with emergency response vehicles such as police, fire and ambulances on bona-fide emergencies, Washington State Patrol vehicles assigned to the bridge, and bridge maintenance vehicles. The proposal set forth for public comment recommended that "passenger motor vehicles used as ride sharing as defined in RCW 46.74.010, and that are compliant with RCW 46.16.023 and 82.12.0282" be exempt from the SR 520 Bridge toll. Generally, government vehicles are not exempt from the toll, except for Washington state patrol vehicles directly providing service to the SR 520 bridge corridor; publicly owned and operated transit buses; and department maintenance vehicles directly involved in bridge and roadway maintenance on the SR 520 Bridge, including the department's incident response vehicles responding to incidents and WSDOT tow trucks stationed on the bridge. For a full review of the SR 520 Bridge Toll Proposal, see <http://www.wstc.wa.gov/HighwayTolling/SR520Bridge.htm>. This plan specifically addresses the comment about provisions for motorists to mail in payments before being billed. More information about how electronic tolling will be implemented along the SR 520 corridor is included in Chapter 1 of the Final EIS, and on the WSDOT website at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/520FAQ.htm#offnew>